



# ECHO

Ecological Health Organization, Inc.  
PO BOX 8232 Berlin, CT 06037 (570) 472-9374  
ECHOMCSCT@aol.com www.ECHOMCSCT.homestead.com

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March 2, 2009

Senator Meyers, Representative Roy, Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Carolyn Wysocki and as President of ECHO, (Ecological Health Organization, Inc) I am here to voice strong support for all the Bills on the Agenda:

1. S.B. No. 791 (RAISED) AN ACT BANNING BISPHENOL-A IN CERTAIN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.
2. S.B. No. 792 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IDLING OF MOTOR VEHICLES.
3. S.B. No. 919 (RAISED) AN ACT PHASING OUT THE USE OF POLYBROMINATED DIPHENYL ETHERS.
4. S.B. No. 924 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A MORATORIUM ON STATE FUNDED ARTIFICIAL TURF ATHLETIC FIELDS AND THE POSTING OF SIGNS.
5. S.B. No. 1020 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS AT CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS AND SCHOOLS.
6. S.B. No. 1021 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION AND REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINANTS IN DRINKING WATER.
7. H.B. No. 6572 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING BANNING BISPHENOL-A IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND FOOD PRODUCTS AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE SUBSTANCES

In January, 1992-ECHO was formed as a statewide nonprofit, advocacy, support, educational and referral organization for people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and for others who care about its prevention. MCS is a chronic disorder in which people develop increased reactions to various chemicals found in products such as pesticides, building materials, fragrances carpets, food, clothing, exhaust, smoke and cleaning products...Our MCS members are living proof of the linkages between the environment and health.

MCS affects multiple organ systems (respiratory, digestive, neurological, musculoskeletal, reproductive, cardiovascular) and commonly includes symptoms such as asthma, difficulty breathing and concentrating; migraines; loss of memory, dizziness; muscle/joint pains, and fatigue. There is no known cure for MCS, and the most effective treatment found to date is avoidance of toxic chemicals, a difficult task in today's world.

People with MCS can suffer serious adverse reactions to low levels of chemicals such as PBA (Biphenyl, PBDEs (Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers, pesticides, diesel pollutants emitted from artificial turf and contaminants in our water. We have had to make serious changes in our way of life such as using non-toxic cleaning products, safe building materials, growing and eating organic foods and using non toxic methods of lawn care. We are at risk of exposures and whenever we go out in the public whether its grocery shopping, school/community events, church, work, hospital or here to testify at the LOB. We have been "Green" long before it became fashionable.

Through past and current legislation, Connecticut has taken a leadership roll in the prevention of illnesses related to chemicals and is supporting a cleaner and Healthier Community for all. These bills would help to prevent children and adults from developing MCS or other illnesses due to exposures to toxic chemicals. There are alternatives.

People with MCS are tired of being an experiment for the Chemical Industry. ECHO supports Prevention and these Bills.

*Prevention is Our Intention!*

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Wysocki*

Carolyn Wysocki, ECHO President

## MISSION

To safeguard the health and well-being of the environment and its inhabitants.